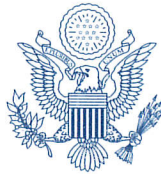


GREG STANTON
ARIZONA'S 9TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 9, 2021

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Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

I am in disbelief that nearly six months after the \$16.2 billion Shuttered Venue Operator Grant was signed into law, the Small Business Administration reports that it has approved a mere 90 grants to the more than 14,000 businesses and organizations that have applied. Only a single venue in Arizona has received aid.

So far, the SBA's rollout and execution of the grant program has been a disaster. Venue operators waited three-and-a-half months after the program became law before the SBA opened a portal to apply – only to see the portal crash the same day. It took another three weeks for the SBA to successfully relaunch it. And then, after vowing to disperse funds for Priority 1 applications by the end May, the SBA fell short again. The molasses-like pace with which the SBA is reviewing applications and dispersing grants threatens the future of many beloved venues – and hampers America's economic recovery.

Today, a venue operator in my district wrote me: "We are past our breaking point. We can't hang on any longer."

Please tell me: What are my constituents – on the verge of closing their businesses forever – supposed to do? What can I tell them to explain why the SBA can't get it together?

Congress did its job when it created this program and provided billions in emergency funds for these venues; It is completely unacceptable that the SBA has been unable to do its job. I ask that you and the SBA make improving this program a higher priority and provide my office with an update on its status immediately.

Sincerely,

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress